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PATENT

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(NE)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: CHRISTOPH ESPEY
Serial No.: 09/529,365 Group Art Unit: 3753
Filed: JUNE 13, 2000 Examiner: JOHN FOX
Title: ELECTRICALLY CONTROLLED VALVE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

APR 26 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

The following comments are addressed to the final rejection dated January 24, 2002 and serve as a supplement to the Response filed December 6, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.

REMARKS

Claims 8-9, 15-16 and 22 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by the reference to Gordon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,405,088) as indicated at page 2 of the Patent Office Action. This rejection statement is identical to the rejection statement in the Patent Office Action of August 6, 2001 and specifically indicates that the contact area of the claimed invention is defined by items 17 and 18. In response to the previously filed Amendment of December 6, 2001, the Office Action indicates that the ring 19 of Gordon is fixed to the head 16 and together they form the valve member.